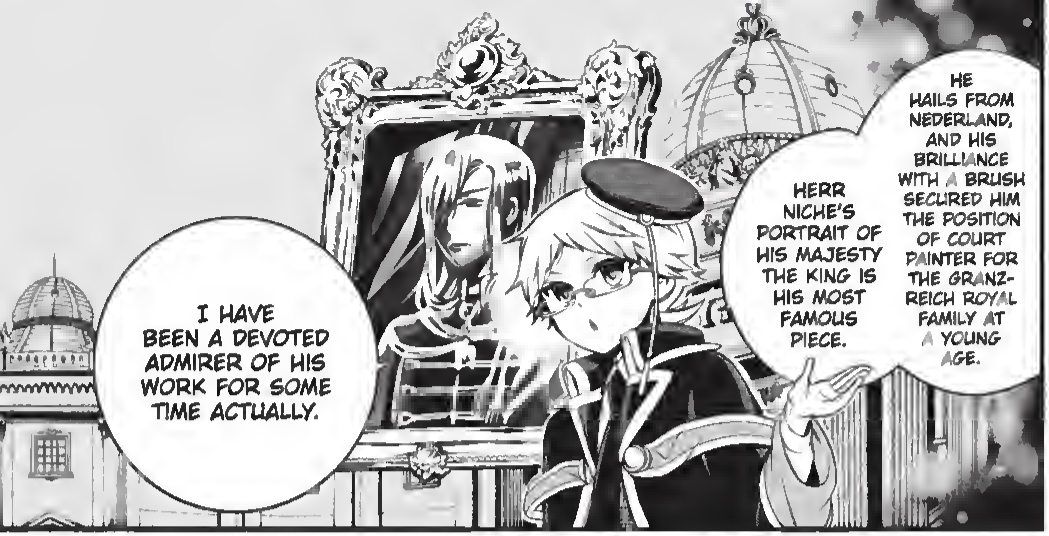
Chapters 33 & 34

THE ROYAL TUTOR

Higasa Akai

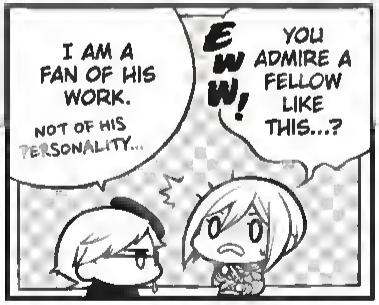
Chapter 33
Melancholy of the White Lily

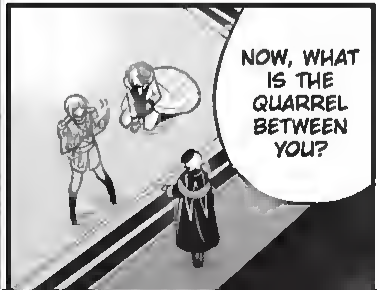
I AM A PRINCE, BORN AND BRED!
GOOD HEAVENS!
WHAT HAS HAPPENED? WHY, YOU COULD ALMOST PASS FOR A PRINCE IN THAT ATTIRE!
NNNNGH... D-DO NOT BE SO CRUEL, MY PRINCE...!
DRAG
HELP ME REMOVE THIS PAINTER FROM MY QUARTERS!
YOU'VE COME AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME.
WE MET WHEN I BORROWED HIS SKETCHES AS EXAMPLES FOR YOUR ART LESSON.
THE ONES I SHOWED YOUR HIGHNESSES BEFORE WE BEGAN, IF YOU RECALL?
...YOU KNOW HIM?
HALLO, PROFESSOR HEINE!
OH MY. HERR NICHE? THE COURT PAINTER?


I HAVE BEEN A DEVOTED ADMIRER OF HIS WORK FOR SOME TIME ACTUALLY.
HERR NICHE'S PORTRAIT OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING IS HIS MOST FAMOUS PIECE.
HE HAILS FROM NEDERLAND, AND HIS BRILLIANCE WITH A BRUSH SECURED HIM THE POSITION OF COURT PAINTER FOR THE GRANZ-REICH ROYAL FAMILY AT A YOUNG AGE.

TWINKLE
I ADMIT I NOW FEEL AN INTENSE URGE TO EXCUSE MYSELF FROM THE RANKS OF HIS FANS.
PLEASE DO STAND UP...
U-FU-FU-FU... OH, I HARDLY DESERVE SUCH DEVOTION!

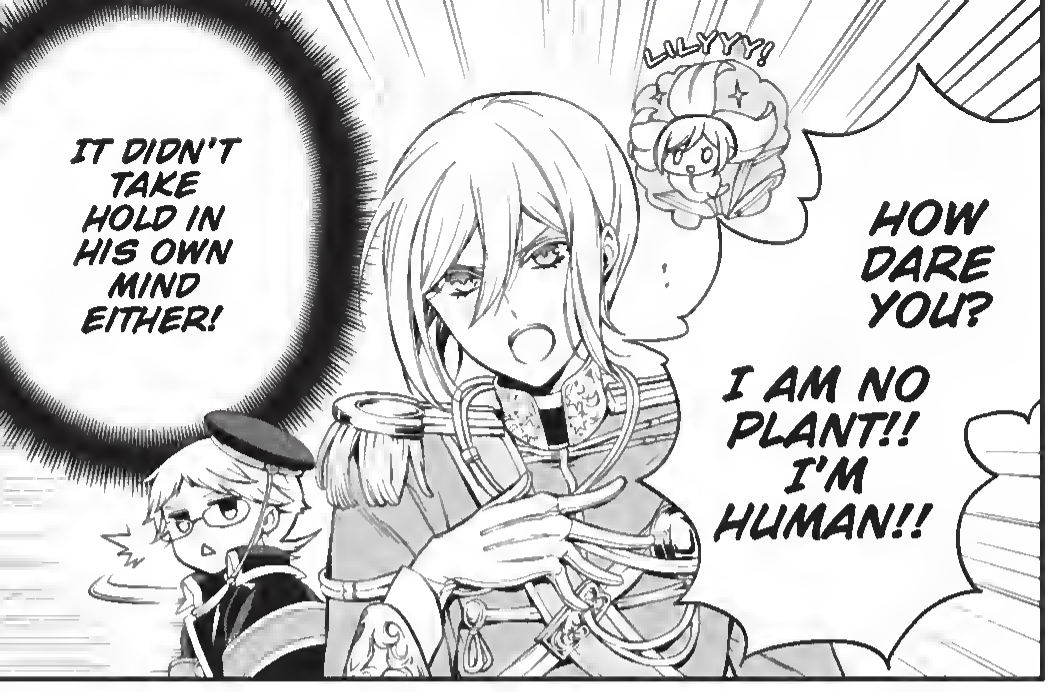
YET THE PRINCE SEEMS TO HATE THE IDEA...TO HATE IT SO MUCH!
TO PAINT A PORTRAIT OF PRINCE LEON-HARD...
THIS IS THE MARVELOUS TASK BESTOWED UPON ME BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING!
HMPH!

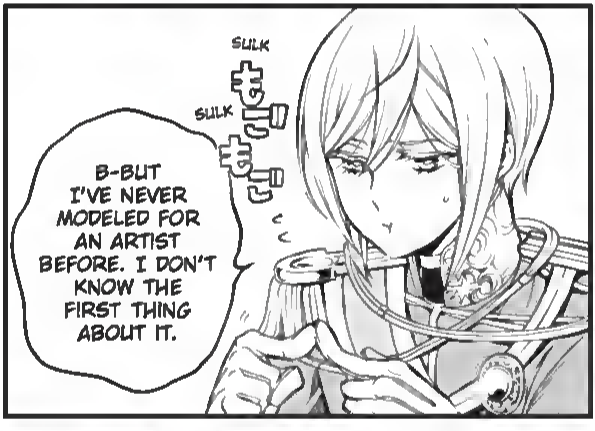

I AM A FAN OF HIS WORK.
NOT OF HIS PERSONALITY...
EWW!
YOU ADMIRE A FELLOW LIKE THIS...?


NOW, WHAT IS THE QUARREL BETWEEN YOU?

TO CAPTURE HIS ABUNDANT BEAUTY ON CANVAS WITH MY OWN BRUSH...I HAVE DREAMED OF THIS FOR SO LONG!
...
HIS OTHER NAME: THE "WHITE LILY OF GRANZ-REICH"...!
PRINCE LEONHARD IS SAID TO BE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PRINCE ON THE WESTERN CONTINENT.
BUT I SHALL NOT RELENT.

AAH! HEINEEE! AAAAAH!
1×1=11!?
BROTHER IS SO COOL!
THE MANY STRANGE BEHAVIORS THAT OVER-SHADOW HIS LOOKS.
OH YES. IT HAD COMPLETELY SLIPPED MY MIND.
THE "WHITE LILY OF GRANZREICH"...

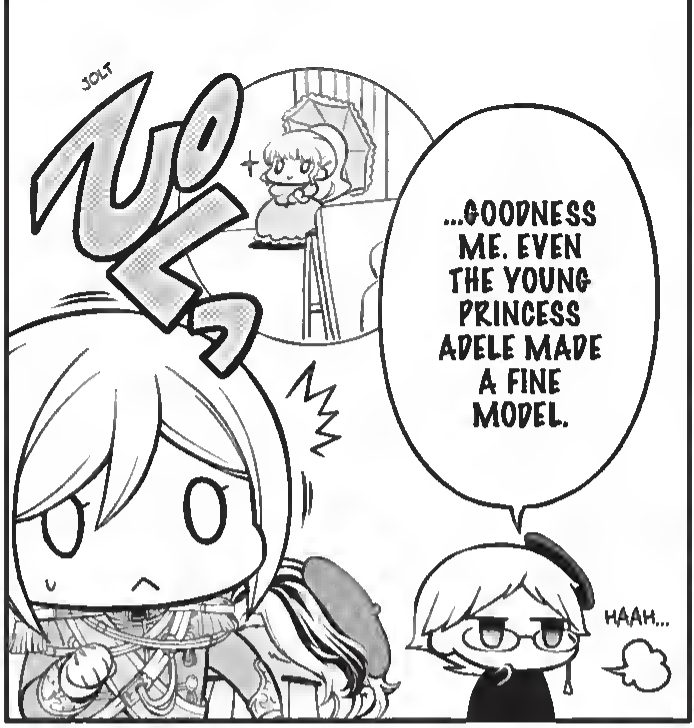

LILYYY!
HOW DARE YOU?
I AM NO PLANT!! I'M HUMAN!!
IT DIDN'T TAKE HOLD IN HIS OWN MIND EITHER!


SULK
SULK
B-BUT I'VE NEVER MODELED FOR AN ARTIST BEFORE. I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT IT.

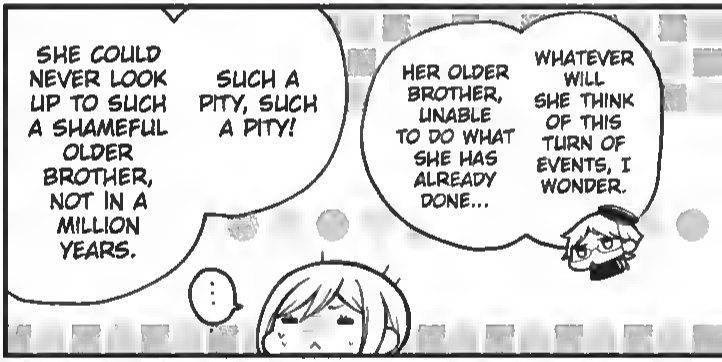
WHAT IS THE ISSUE? YOU SHOULD BE DELIGHTED TO HAVE YOUR LIKENESS RENDERED BY AN ARTIST OF SUCH ENORMOUS SKILL.
"LAY-ABOUT"!?
UNREASONABLE LAY-ABOUT!

E-EH!?
THEN I'LL GO SPEAK TO FATHER!

...NOT MY DESIRE ALONE.
BUT IT IS THE WILL OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING...
NO ONE TOLD ME I WOULD HAVE TO STAY STILL FOUR HOURS A DAY FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK!


JOLT
...GOODNESS ME. EVEN THE YOUNG PRINCESS ADELE MADE A FINE MODEL.
HAAH...

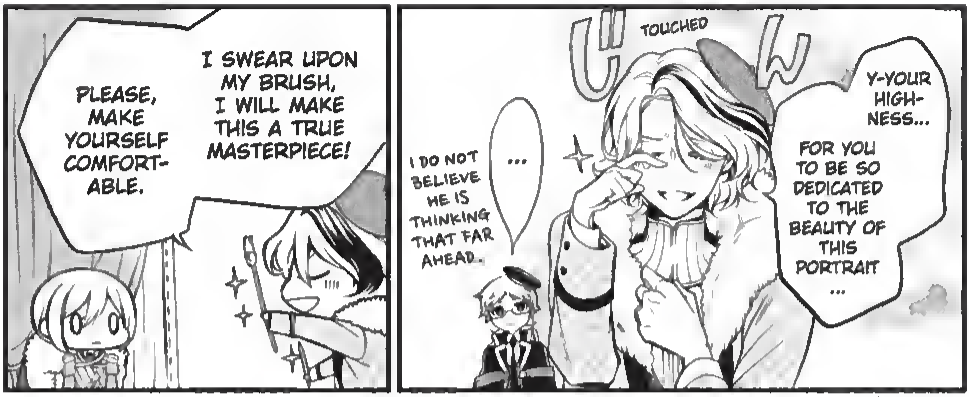
IF FATHER AGREES WITH ME, THEN THAT WILL BE THE END OF THIS!
N-NOOO! MY DREEEAM ...
DRAG
DRAG

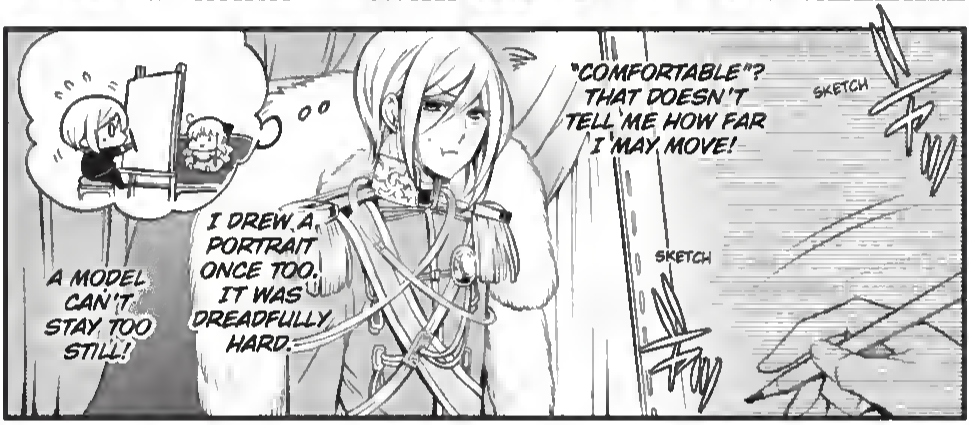

SHE COULD NEVER LOOK UP TO SUCH A SHAMEFUL OLDER BROTHER, NOT IN A MILLION YEARS.
SUCH A PITY, SUCH A PITY!
HER OLDER BROTHER, UNABLE TO DO WHAT SHE HAS ALREADY DONE...
WHATEVER WILL SHE THINK OF THIS TURN OF EVENTS, I WONDER.

GOODNESS GRACIOUS...
THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!
OHH...!
FUME
FUME
SIGH...
D-DAM-MIT ALL! I'LL SHOW YOU!!
I AM PERFECTLY CAPABLE OF POSING FOR AN ARTIST, GOT THAT!?

MY!
I'LL BEGIN, THEN. PLEASE STAY AS STILL AS POSSIBLE.
IN THE PROPER POSE, HE DOES CUT QUITE A STRIKING FIGURE...
IT IS NO WONDER THEY CALL HIM THE WHITE LILY OF GRANZ-REICH...
...?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

!!?
THUMP
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS WRONG?
H-HE SAID TO... STAY... STILL...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YOUR HIGH-NESS!?
HAFF. HAHK.
IF I INHALE... I'LL... MOVE...
HFF.
THE WHITE LILY OF STUPIDITY.


PLEASE, MAKE YOURSELF COMFORT-ABLE.
I SWEAR UPON MY BRUSH, I WILL MAKE THIS A TRUE MASTERPIECE!
TOUCHED
Y-YOUR HIGH-NESS...
FOR YOU TO BE SO DEDICATED TO THE BEAUTY OF THIS PORTRAIT ...
...
I DO NOT BELIEVE HE IS THINKING THAT FAR AHEAD.


A MODEL CAN'T STAY TOO STILL!
I DREW A PORTRAIT ONCE TOO. IT WAS DREADFULLY HARD.
"COMFORTABLE"? THAT DOESN'T TELL ME HOW FAR I MAY MOVE!
SKETCH
SKETCH

!!
BADUM

MY BACK! IT'S SO... ITCHY!
IT'S JUST AN ITCH. STAY STILL. STAY STILL...
H-HUH...? IT'S GETTING EVEN ITCHIER!
AAAH! I NEED TO SCRATCH IT! AAAAH!
긁긁
QUIVER
긁긁
QUIVER
PRINCE... TSK, TSK. YOU JUST MOVED, DIDN'T YOU?
ARE YOU SO INCOMPETENT THAT YOU CANNOT EVEN POSE FOR A PAINTING?
HARRUMPH!
ALL IN HIS HEAD
BUT, BUT, BUT...!! WITH MY PRIDE ON THE LINE, I MUST AVOID THAT AT ALL COSTS!!!

PRINCE LEONHARD INVOKES NOT THE IMAGE OF A DARING SOLDIER, BUT A...A...
...A CLEAR BROOK...
THIS BEAUTY, IT DOES NOT SPEAK TO MY SOUL.
...HRMM...
STOP
LOOK!!!
...MAY I MOVE!?
IF...IF YOU'RE NOT DRAWING NOW...
TH-THIS IS MY CHANCE!!
I'M SAVED!!
GLINT
OH, SO SORRY. PLEASE, FEEL FREE.

HUH?
...PERHAPS HE SHOULD REMAIN IN THIS POSITION FOR A SPELL?
IF YOUR CONCEPT FOR THE PIECE IS NOT COMING TOGETHER...
HOLD THAT POSE, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
YES, A SPLENDID IDEA! WE WILL AIM FOR AN EVEN HIGHER PLANE OF BEAUTY!
SNAP
HEINE-EEEE!!
I HAVE TO SCRATCH IT, YET I CAN'T... THIS IS TORTURE!
AAARGH! IT ITCHES SO MUCH!

I KNEW IT! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE AGREED TO MODEL!!
DRIP
IT ITCHES!
!?
YOUR HIGH-NESS?
.....!

INSPI-RATION, COME...!!
CLATTER
I-INSPIRA-TION...
?
THIS FLEETING LOOK OF THE PRINCE HAS BECOME AN INSTANT FAVORITE, PARTICULARLY AMONG WOMEN.
SO BEGINS THE "WHITE LILY" PRINCE'S POPULARITY BOOM...
"THE PURE-TEARED PRINCE." A MASTERPIECE DEPICTING A PRINCE BROKENHEARTED OVER THE MISFORTUNES IN THE WORLD.
ZOOM
BEAUTY!!
WITH THAT IN MIND, HE SAYS HE IS EAGER TO BEGIN WORK ON THE NEXT PORTRAIT.
W-WELL! I DID WORK HARD AS THE MODEL...!
EH HEH!
INCREDIBLE. AREN'T YOU PLEASED YOU HAD YOUR PORTRAIT PAINTED, YOUR HIGH-NESS?
HAGGARD

Read on to the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

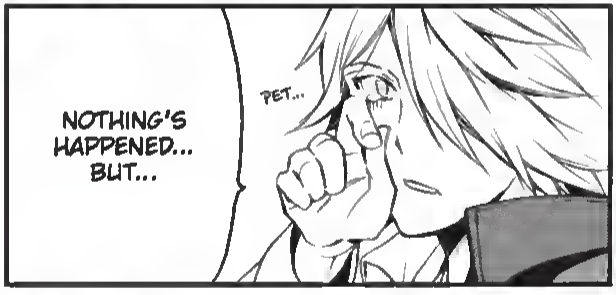
Chapter 34

Determined in the Present

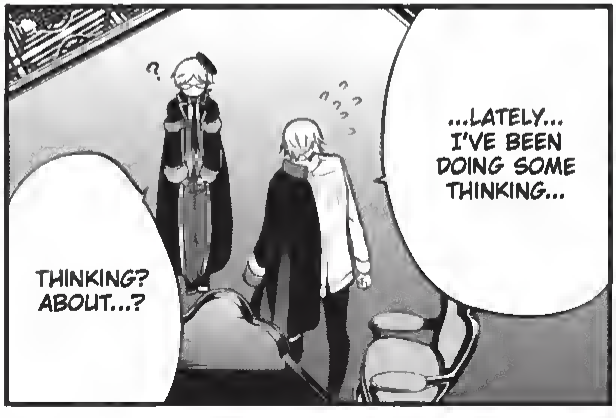
THAT CONCLUDES YOUR LESSONS FOR THE DAY, PRINCE KAI. AS ALWAYS, GOOD WORK.
MM...
THE SCANDAL SURROUNDING THE PRINCE'S FIGHT AT MILITARY SCHOOL...
...LIES FAR BEHIND HIM NOW THAT THE TABLOID THAT PUBLISHED THE FALSE ARTICLE ISSUED CORRECTIONS.
HE SHOULD FINALLY BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE FULLY ON HIS LESSONS.
TEACHER.
YES?

ふにふにふにふにふにふにふにふにふにふにふにふに
PET
.....
THE PETS ARE FASTER THAN USUAL...
...MY WORD...
SIXTEEN PETS PER SECOND
*COMPARED TO AN AVERAGE OF FIVE PETS PER SECOND
AHEM... PRINCE KAI?
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED, PER-CHANCE?

TWIRL
SECRET TECH-NIQUE— PETTING PREVEN-TION!!
NOOO...!


NOTHING'S HAPPENED... BUT...
PET...

...NOW, WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
P... PET...?
THMP


...LATELY... I'VE BEEN DOING SOME THINKING...
THINKING? ABOUT...?

...I THINK...
...I WANT TO GO BACK...TO MILITARY SCHOOL...
WHAT...?

...I THOUGHT... I WAS NO GOOD... AND WOULD NEVER BE ALLOWED TO GO TO SCHOOL AGAIN...
...AFTER I WAS SUSPENDED FOR THE FIGHT...
...EVEN THOUGH I HAD CAUSE...
SO I THOUGHT... MAYBE I CAN GO BACK AFTER ALL...
THE SCHOOL UNDER-STANDS WHAT HAPPENED TOO...
NOW A LOT OF PEOPLE KNOW...THAT IT DIDN'T HAPPEN BECAUSE I'M A MONSTER...
BUT THE CORRECTED STORY IN THE PAPER CLEARED UP THE RUMORS ABOUT ME...
YESTERDAY, I SPOKE TO FATHER AND BRUNO ABOUT IT...

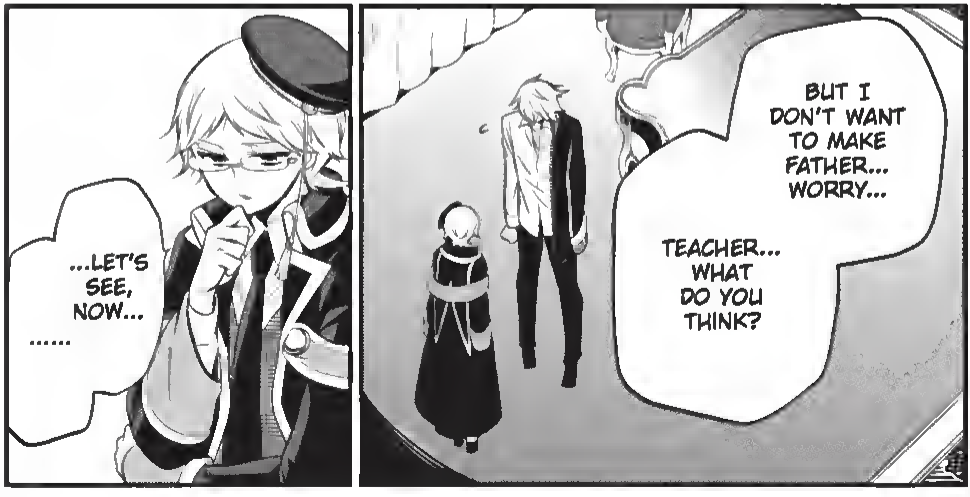
.....
YOU WISH TO RETURN...
...TO THE SAME MILITARY SCHOOL...?
HOWEVER...
THE SUSPENSION WAS LIFTED AGES AGO. IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO RETURN TO SCHOOL, YES.
.....
...I-I...CANNOT BRING MYSELF TO RETURN.
OH, BUT IF YOU WISH TO GO, KAI, I WOULD OF COURSE SUPPORT YOU...
?
CLATTER
KAI...

GRAB
KAIIIII!
!!?
GAPE
I...HIC! I REMEMBERED HOW KAI CAME HOME ALL B-BEATEN THAT DAY...
SNIFFL
SNIFFL
SNIFFL
WH-WHAT HAS COME OVER YOU, FATHER?
W-WE NEED NOT SPEAK OF THAT RIGHT NOW!!
YOU REMEMBER, BRUNO! FOR THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS, NOT ONCE DID YOU LEAVE HIS SIDE, EVEN AS YOU WEPT...!
THERE, THERE...
UU... UUNH...

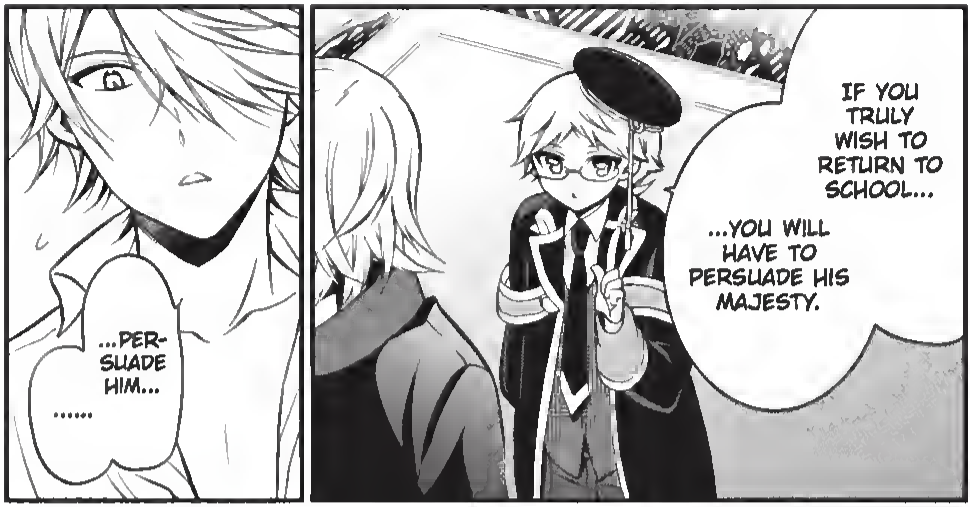
STILL, AS YOUR FATHER, I CANNOT IGNORE THAT POSSIBILITY AND SEND YOU BACK TO THAT PLACE.
...WE HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT A REPEAT OF THE PAST.
IN ANY CASE...
ARE YOU WORRIED THAT YOU CANNOT BECOME A WORTHY MONARCH WITHOUT FINISHING MILITARY SCHOOL? YOU NEED NOT.
SURELY YOU WOULD BE FREER TO CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDIES AT A NEW SCHOOL?
IF YOU STILL WISH TO GO, HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT ATTENDING THE MILITARY ACADEMY OF ONE OF OUR ALLIED NATIONS?
...IS SO YOU DO NOT NEED TO GO TO MILITARY SCHOOL.
PART OF THE REASON I HAVE YOU TAKING REGULAR LESSONS FROM A LIVE-IN ROYAL TUTOR...

YOU SEE? YOU NEEDN'T FORCE YOURSELF TO RETURN TO A PLACE WITH BAD MEMORIES.
...THAT'S... WHAT THEY SAID...

FATHER WAS WORRIED ABOUT ME... THAT MAKES ME HAPPY...
BUT IF I CAN... THEN...
...I THINK GOING BACK TO THE SAME SCHOOL... IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO...


BUT I DON'T WANT TO MAKE FATHER... WORRY...
TEACHER... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
...LET'S SEE, NOW... .....

ACK!
I FIND IT TO BE QUITE A SHOCKING CONFESSION TO MAKE TO THE ROYAL TUTOR.
HONESTLY, FOR YOU TO TELL ME YOU WISH TO STUDY UNDER ANOTHER...
YES, YES, I UNDERSTAND. I ASSURE YOU.
I WILL NOT HOLD IT AGAINST YOU.
PANIC
PANIC
S-SORRY... TEACHER...
THAT'S NOT IT...I STILL WANT TO LEARN FROM YOU TOO...BUT... UM...
HOWEVER, THE KING'S CONCERNS STILL STAND.
SO LONG AS YOU DO NOT ALLOW IT TO INTERFERE WITH MY LESSONS, I HAVE NO OBJECTIONS.
I-I... CAN'T GO TO SCHOOL...? SHOULD I NOT...?


...PERSUADE HIM...
.....
IF YOU TRULY WISH TO RETURN TO SCHOOL...
...YOU WILL HAVE TO PERSUADE HIS MAJESTY.

...! WANT TO GO...!
FWOOP
ばばっ
...TO SCHOOL...
FLAP
ぱた
FLAP
ぱた
FLAP
ぱた
FLAP
ぱた
FLAP
ぱた
...I WANT TO GO...

WAS THAT AN ATTEMPT AT PERSUASION OR INTERPRETIVE DANCE?
WHILE IT WAS CHARMING, IT WOULD NOT WORK
.....HOW WAS THAT...?
?
きょとん
STARE

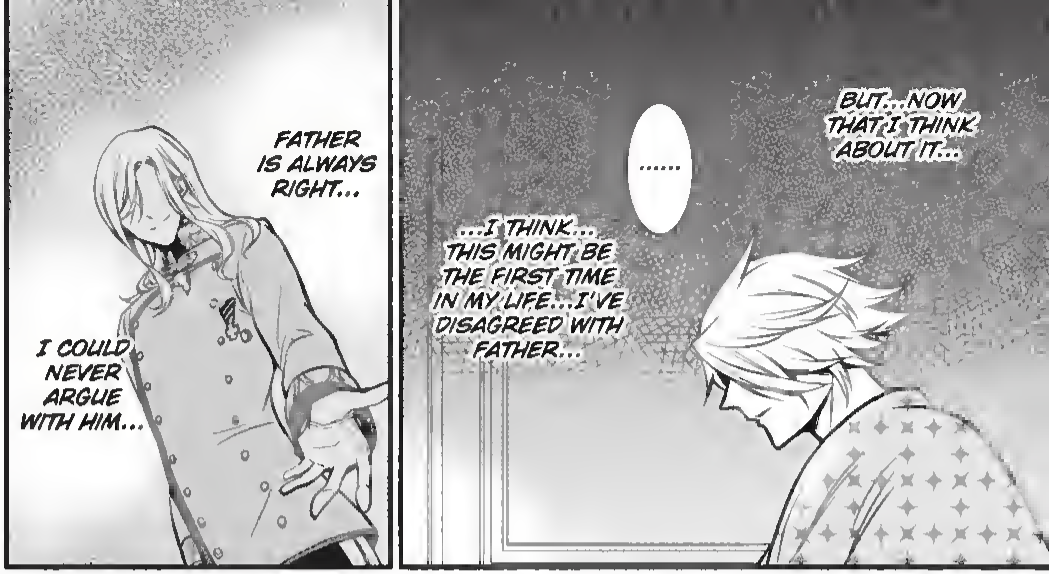
WHILE YOUR FEELINGS ARE IMPORTANT, YOU MUST ALSO HAVE A SOUND REASON TO WISH TO GO TO SCHOOL.
YOU SAY YOU THINK IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO, BUT THAT ALONE IS NOT PERSUASIVE.
WHAT DO YOU WISH TO LEARN THERE? WHAT IS YOUR GOAL IN DOING THIS?
MY... GOAL...
UNNH... UMMM... HMM...
...DON'T KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN IT...
...I'M... BAD WITH WORDS...
.....

A LETTER ...?
YES. USING THIS METHOD, EVEN PRINCE LEONHARD BECOMES EMBARRASSINGLY HONEST.
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL ABOUT PUTTING YOUR WORDS TO PAPER, THEN?
SLIDE

...NH.
SHALL I ACCOMPANY YOU TO DELIVER THE LETTER?
TOMORROW... HIS MAJESTY WILL BE WORKING IN HIS OFFICE THE ENTIRE DAY.

O...
OKAY...!

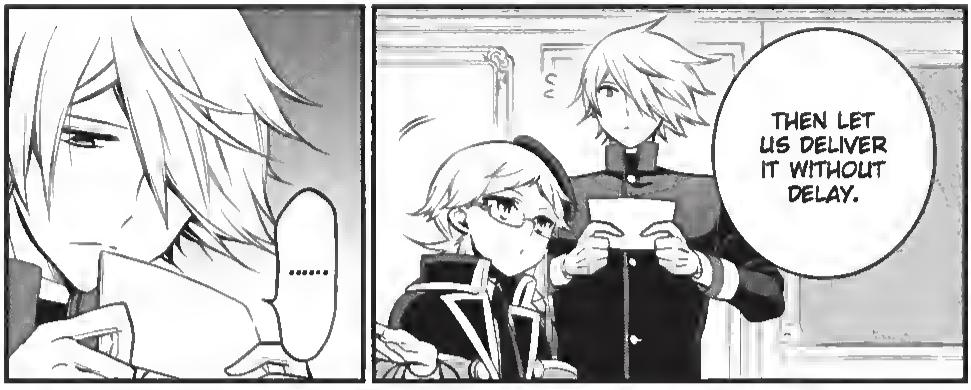
SKRITCH
SKRITCH
THAT'S WHY I...
THIS...
...IS WHAT I THINK...
WRITING MY THOUGHTS HELPS ME ORGANIZE THEM...
IT'S LIKE TEACHER SAID... EVEN IF I'M BAD AT TALKING...
...I CAN FIND THE WORDS FOR A LETTER...
SWISH
SWISH
FREEZE

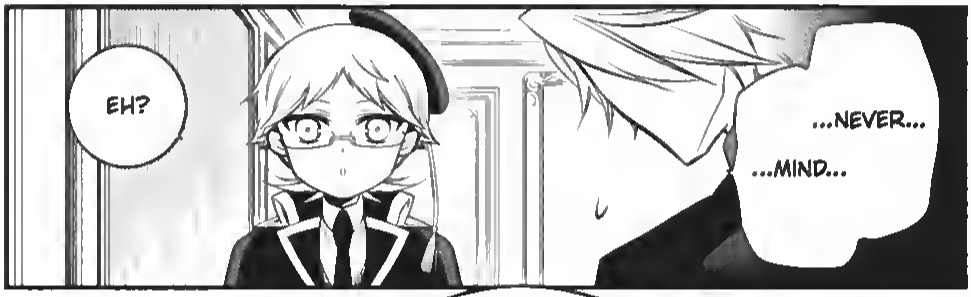

FATHER IS ALWAYS RIGHT...
I COULD NEVER ARGUE WITH HIM...
BUT...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT...
.....
...I THINK... THIS MIGHT BE THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE...I'VE DISAGREED WITH FATHER...

WEEP
WEEP
YOU'VE BROKEN PAPA'S HEART...
HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH THINGS, KAI?
WHAT... WILL HAPPEN...?

YOU AREN'T THE BOY I RAISED!!
YOU DARE ARGUE WITH YOUR PAPA? YOU'VE BECOME A BAD SON!
GRRR!
OR WOULD HE...?

WHAT DO I DO...?
わたわたわたわたわた
PANIC PANIC PANIC PANIC PANIC
WHAT DO I DO...?
WHAT DO I DO...?
わたわたわた
PANIC PANIC PANIC
WH-WHAT DO I DO?
うう
うん
GLOOOOM
NOD
コクン
...Y...
... YEAH ...
YOUR LETTER FOR HIS MAJESTY...
DID YOU COMPLETE IT?


.....
THEN LET US DELIVER IT WITHOUT DELAY.


EH?
...NEVER...
...MIND...

IF HE KNEW THAT...
...HE MIGHT... GET UPSET...
I DON'T... AGREE WITH FATHER...

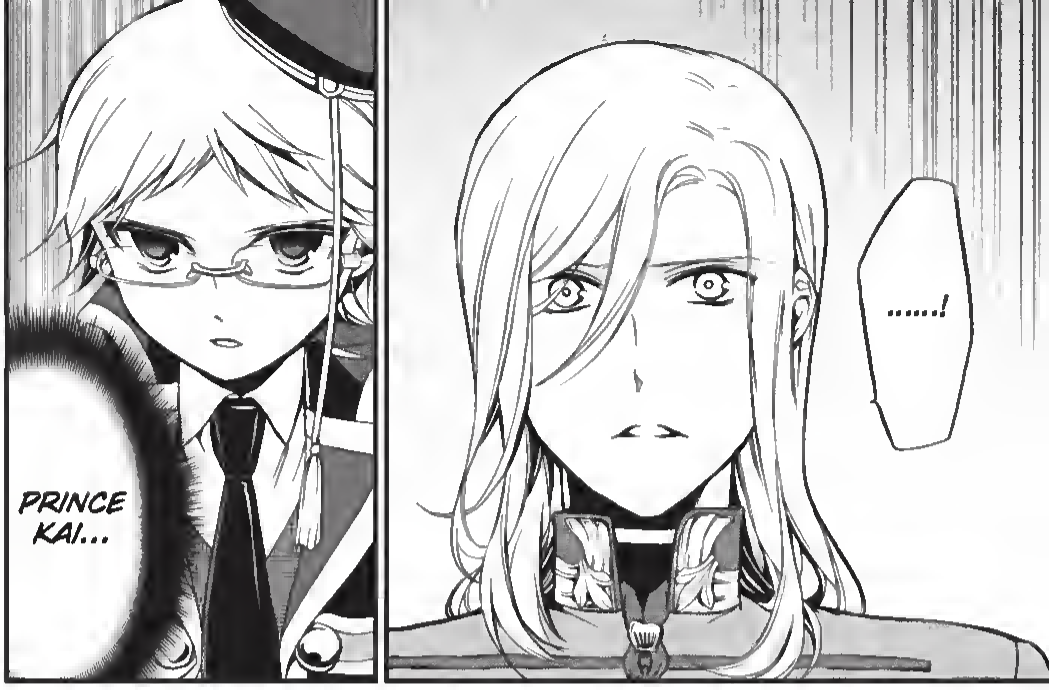
.....
I COULDN'T... BEAR IT...
WHAT IF... I MAKE HIM HATE ME...
...OR WORSE ...?
EXPRESSING ONE'S OBJECTIONS...
...IS NOT SOME REBELLIOUS PHASE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AT PRESENT, BOTH HIS MAJESTY AND YOUR HIGH-NESS...
...ARE SERIOUSLY DEBATING WHAT IS BEST FOR YOUR FUTURE.
IF, DESPITE THAT, YOU HELD BACK YOUR TRUE FEELINGS...
...AND SIMPLY NODDED YOUR HEAD TO HIS MAJESTY'S OPINIONS...
...COULD YOU TRULY CALL THAT A RELATIONSHIP OF MUTUAL TRUST?

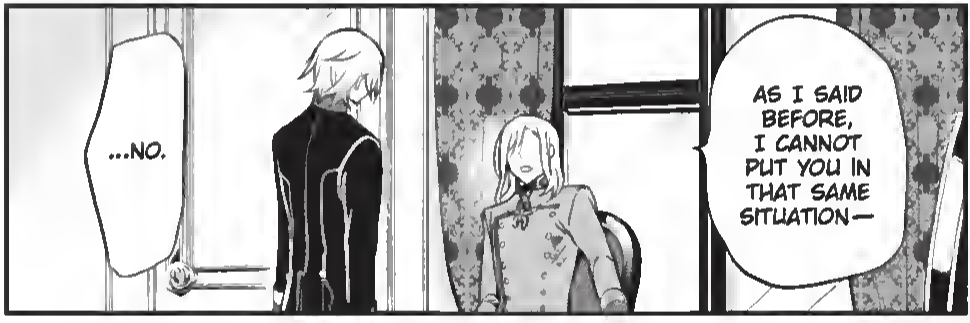
WOULD THAT NOT BE A FAR GREATER BETRAYAL OF TRUST...
...THAN STATING A COMPLETELY OPPOSITE OPINION?
.....

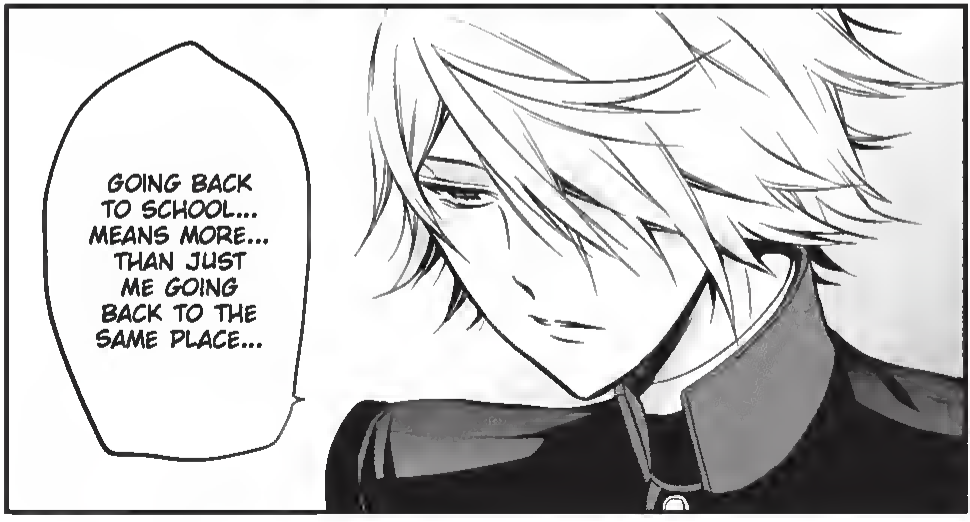
WELL? WHICH WILL IT BE?
IF HE IS SOMEONE WHOM YOU DO NOT DEEM WORTHY OF KNOWING YOUR TRUE FEELINGS, THEN I SEE NO PROBLEM BOWING TO HIS WILL.
.....
CREAK
I...
I WANT HIM TO ACCEPT... HOW I REALLY FEEL...

FATHER...
IS IMPORTANT
TO ME...
...SO...
...I WANT TO
TRUST...
...HE'LL
ACCEPT
WHAT
I WANT
TO DO...

.....
HEINE IS WITH YOU AS WELL?
HMM? WHAT IS IT, KAI?
UM.
.....
UM...
...NH...
FATHER ...
...I...
I STILL..... WANT TO GO...TO SCHOOL...


PRINCE KAI...
.....!


...NO.
AS I SAID BEFORE, I CANNOT PUT YOU IN THAT SAME SITUATION—

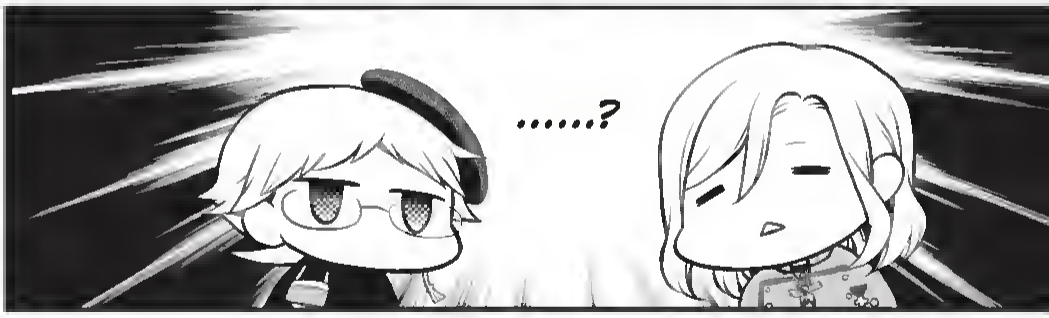

GOING BACK TO SCHOOL... MEANS MORE... THAN JUST ME GOING BACK TO THE SAME PLACE...

THANKS TO PROFESSOR HEINE... AND MY BROTHERS...
LITTLE BY LITTLE...
...I'VE STARTED TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO THE PALACE STAFF...
THEY'RE ALL...SO NICE...
IT'S TRUE THAT THE PEOPLE AT SCHOOL...
...MIGHT NOT ALL BE NICE...LIKE YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT...
...BUT...

...BUT...
...I THINK... THE STRENGTH TO SPEAK WITH THOSE KINDS OF PEOPLE TOO...
...IS THE QUALITY I'M LACKING THE MOST RIGHT NOW... THAT'S WHY.

IF I WANT TO BECOME A MAN WORTHY OF THE THRONE...
...THAT'S WHAT... I THINK... I NEED...
A-ALSO... I LIKED... THE LESSONS AT MILITARY SCHOOL...
LIKE THE CANNONS... FIRING THEM... IS FUN...AND THE SWORD... I WANT TO BE GOOD AT IT...
CLENCH
SO...
...I...
PRINCE KAI...

I WROTE ALL ABOUT IT... IN THIS LETTER...
SHWIP


.....?

.....
.....
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED
WHEW!

I'M...BAD AT TALKING, SO I PUT IT IN WRITING...!
FATHER... READ IT...
SHOVE
SHOVE
SHOVE

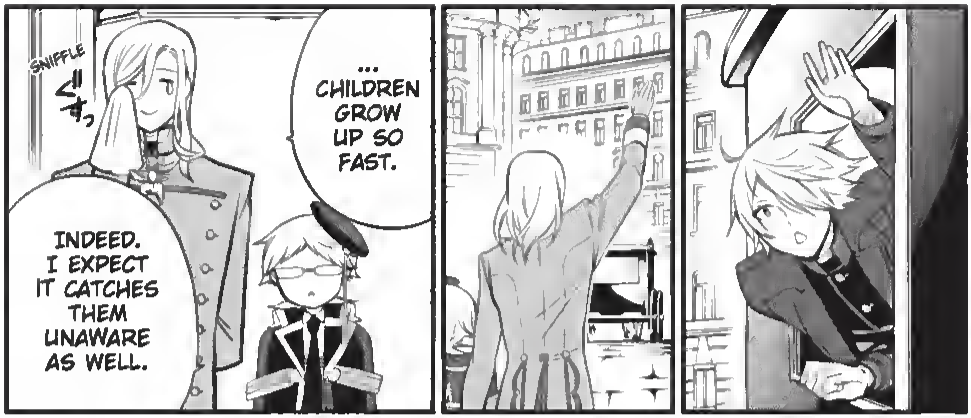
AH...!
OH!?
PRINCE KAI... YOU DO REALIZE THAT YOU'VE JUST DELIVERED THE MESSAGE ALOUD, YES...?
I-I WAS SO FOCUSED ON GETTING MY FEELINGS ACROSS...
...THAT BEFORE I KNEW IT...THE WORDS CAME OUT...
THAT IS ALL...? AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU HAD SUMMONED THE COURAGE ...
AHEM... WHEN YOU BEGAN SPEAKING RATHER THAN PRESENTING THE LETTER...
...I ASSUMED YOU HAD DECIDED TO EXPLAIN YOUR THOUGHTS DIRECTLY...
PANIC
AH... AAAH...
PANIC
.....
HEH.
GOODNESS... I LOVE MY CHILDREN SO MUCH...
...I END UP ACTING THE WORRYWART. IT IS A BAD HABIT OF MINE.
HUH?
SQUOOSH
.....YOU'VE DONE A LOT OF GROWING UP SINCE BACK THEN, KAI...
I HAD FORGOTTEN THAT.

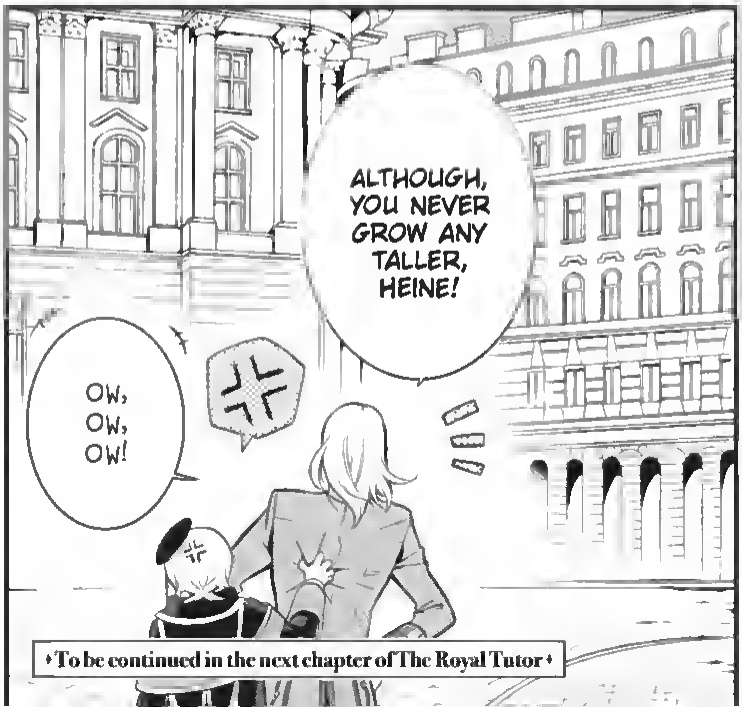
FATHER...
...THANK YOU...
...FOR REMINDING ME.
IF YOU CAN EXPRESS YOURSELF SO CLEARLY NOW...
...YOU'LL BE FINE... I'M SURE OF IT.

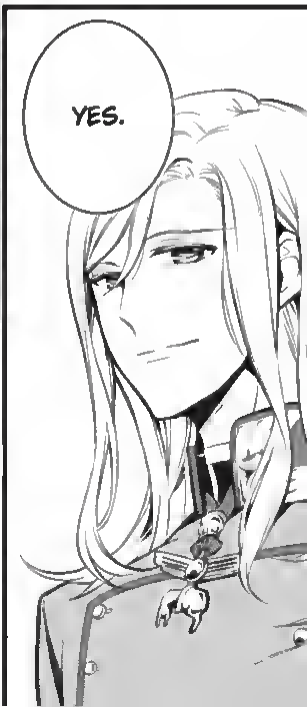
I-I'M OFF TO SCHOOL, THEN...
GOOD-BYE...
FIRST DAY BACK AT SCHOOL

YOU HAVE NOT HAD YOUR FILL OF WORRYING YET?
AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, ANYTHING AT ALL, BRING HIM HOME AT ONCE!
YES, SIR!
YES, SIR!
YOU WILL GUARD KAI CLOSELY, ALL THE WAY TO THE SCHOOL DOORS!

PFFT.
ACK!
IT'S OKAY... TEACHER... IS A WORRY-WART TOO...
ふにふにふに
PET PET PET
DO YOU REMEMBER THE GREETINGS WE PRACTICED?
DO YOU HAVE YOUR HAND-KERCHIEF?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ANYTHING?







To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapters 33 & 34

Higasa Akai

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